Description of the female of *Automeris themis* DOGNIN, 1919 (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae, Hemileucinae)

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Abstract: The unknown female of *Automeris themis* DOGNIN, 1919 is described and figured including also the female genitalia.

Beschreibung des unbekannten Weibchens von *Automeris themis* DOGNIN, 1919 (Lepidoptera: Saturniidae, Hemileucinae)

Zusammenfassung: Das bisher unbekannte Weibchen von *Automeris themis* DOGNIN, 1919 wird nach einem Einzelstück aus Französisch-Guayana beschrieben und abgebildet.

Introduction

The new world genus *Automeris* HÜBNER, [1819] contains approximately 120 species distributed from Canada to Argentina (LEMAIRE & WOLFE 1993).

Automeris themis was described by DOGNIN (1919), and the male holotype is preserved in the United States National Museum (Washington), as reported by LEMAIRE (1971). LEMAIRE (1971) has included this species, on the basis of the structure of the male genitalia, in the sub-group of *Automeris moresca* SCHAUS, 1906, within his group of *Automeris illustris* (WALKER, 1855).

This species is known only for the Guyanese sub-region, i.e., French Guyana and Guyana, from a total of three localities (LEMAIRE 1970, 1971). Additional male from Montsinery, French Guyana, is in the collection of the senior author.

In this paper, the authors describe the unknown female of this species based on a single specimen collected in French Guyana.

Description of the female

Material examined (Fig. 1): 1 ♀, French Guyana, Piste de Coralie, 29. IV. 1992, in coll. R. VINCIGUERRA, Palermo.

Lenght of forewing: 30 mm.

Head and thorax brown; antennae yellow and abdomen orange.

Forewings upperside: general colouration light brown with an irregular yellow line in the discal area; another line, of the same colour, from the apex to the anal margin in the submarginal area. An appreciable brown spot is in the discal cell. The submarginal and marginal areas are delimited by an irregular yellow line from the apex to the anal margin. This latter area is characterized by a more light brown colour than the general coloration of forewings.

Hindwings upperside: the ground colour is orange, while the marginal area is light brown, very similar to the same area of the forewings. An orange-brown ocellus is in the discal cell surrounded by black and yellow lines, respectively. A little black-white spot is in the middle of ocellus. There is a black and yellow line from veins R5 to 2A in the postdiscal area.

Forewings underside: general colouration brown with a very faint black line from the costal to the anal margin. A black ocellus, with a middle white spot, is in the discal cell.

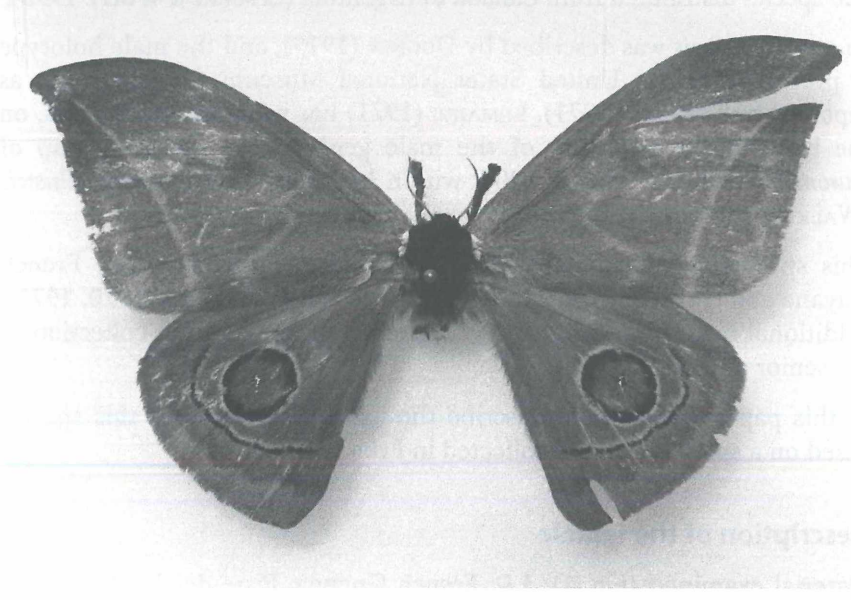

Fig. 1: Female of *Automeris themis* DOGNIN, 1919.

Hindwings underside: the general colouration is the same as in the forewings underside. A minute white spot in the discal cell, and there is a black line from the apex to the anal margin.

Female genitalia (Fig. 2): the structure is similar to the female genitalia of *Automeris moresca*. The main characteristic which separates the two spe-

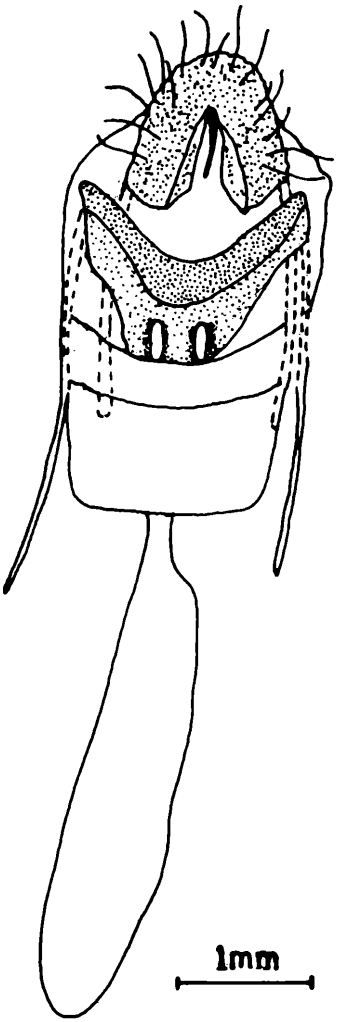

Fig. 2: Female genitalia of *Automeris themis*.

cies is the genital plate. The lobes of the oviporus are different from those of *Automeris moresca,* while the length and the position of the apophyses are very similar. The VIIIth tergite and the ostium bursae are membranaceous.

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